

Part 2: Apply the Writing Process

PREWRITING

What Should I Do?

1. Analyze the prompt.

Review the writing prompt you selected. **Circle** words that tell you the format that your writing will take. **Underline** words that indicate the **topics** you should compare and contrast and the **audience** and **purpose** of your writing.

TIP If the prompt does not specify your audience, write for your teacher and classmates.

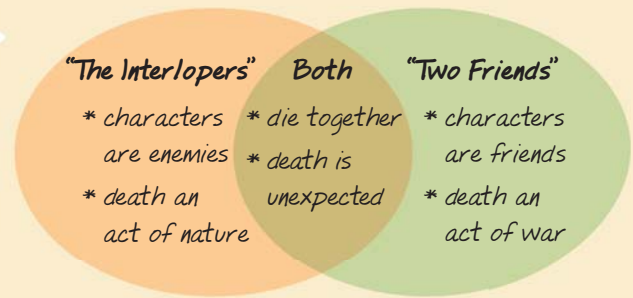
What Does It Look Like?

WRITING PROMPT Write an essay comparing and/or contrasting two literary works. Concentrate on key aspects of the literature, such as theme, setting, and characters, and explain how those key aspects affect the works' overall meanings. Your reader should gain a new understanding of the works.

The format is an essay. The purpose is to compare and contrast two works of literature.

2. Focus on similarities and differences.

Reread (or re-view) the works you're comparing, looking for elements that are alike and different. Use a graphic organizer, such as a Venn diagram, to record your findings.



3. Write a working thesis statement.

Summarize the similarities and differences between the works in a working thesis statement. You might need to refine this statement as you draft your essay.

"The Interlopers" and "Two Friends" have similar messages about life and death. However, the characters' relationships, experiences, and deaths are very different.

4. Collect evidence.

Use a chart to record details and quotations that support the key ideas of your thesis.

TIP When you use quotations from the works, copy the words precisely. Use ellipses (...) to show omitted material and brackets ([]) to add words or phrases for clarification.

Story Element	"The Interlopers"	"Two Friends"
characters' relationship	"each prayed that misfortune might fall on the other"	"they understood each other perfectly"